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RIVER THAMES PIRATES -

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RIVER THAMES PIRATES.
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A  
FULL AND AUTHENTIC REPORT  
OF THE  
TRIAL  
OF

|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| JOSEPH SIMMONDS WINTER, | ROBERT COOPER, |
| WILLIAM ALLEN,          | JOSEPH KNOX,   |
| WILLIAM TAYLOR,         | AND            |
| THOMAS IVEY,            | GEORGE HARRIS, |

FOR STEALING ON THE RIVER THAMES,  
Ten Bales of Silk, and Two Cases of Ostrich Feathers, of the  
Value of £.2000, and upwards,  
THE PROPERTY OF ROBERT HUTCHON,  
On the Night of the 7th of July last.

~~~~~  
*Tried before the HON. BARON THOMPSON, at the Old Bailey,
October 30 and 31, and November 2, 1812.*

~~~~~  
TAKEN IN SHORT HAND, BY  
THOMAS HODGSON, ESQ.  
~~~~~

London:
PRINTED FOR SHERWOOD, NEELY, AND JONES,
PATERNOSTER-ROW;
M. JONES, 5, NEWGATE-STREET; E. WILSON, ROYAL
EXCHANGE; AND C. CHAPPLE, PALL-MALL;
By Law and Gilbert, St. John's-Square, Clerkenwell.

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This silk and feathers they learned had arrived in Stangate creek, and was there put under quarantine out of the brig Velocity, Captain Blyth, from Gibraltar. This was about the middle of June. The offenders having learned by what hoy these goods were to be sent up this creek, found it was to be the Sisters, James Bampton (7), master, owned by Thomas Hutchison. It was then asserted, that Bampton having been previously concerned with them in some jobs of this nature, he entered into their scheme without any hesitation, and communicating the business to John Knox, his mate, and then the only assistant on board the hoy, the plan arranged was, that Joseph Winter and his five associates should go down to the neighbourhood of Sheerness, in a

barge sailed by Winter, in what is called shares, for his master, Mr. Mason, of Greenhithe, and wait for the coming out of the creek of Bampton's hoy with the goods. They were to follow this hoy up the river; and, according to circumstances, Bampton was either to run her on shore, or bring to at a place called Dagenham-breach, a little below Woolwich, when the other party were to board him; and after fastening him (Knox) and the two Custom-house officers below, they were to take the goods out, or, in other words, to commit the robbery. They had previously arranged with Robert Cooper (9), a publican in Ratcliffe-highway, and Charles Ingram (10), of Chadwell, in Essex, that they (the two last mentioned) should be waiting with a covered waggon at Dagenham-breach, to take the goods when landed, and convey them to a place of safety.

Bampton accordingly leaves the creek, with the silk, &c. on board, on Saturday morning, the 4th of July; and Winter and his party, as concerted, follow him in their barge; but Bampton neither ran his vessel on shore, nor stopped, as agreed upon, at Dagenham-breach. He appears to have taken fright; and alledges, as his reason for not sticking to the original plan, that one of the Custom-house-officers he had on board, was so well acquainted with the river, that if the hoy had been either run ashore, or brought-to, he would have known there was roguery in the business, and he (Bampton) would have been exposed to trouble.

Bampton, however, finding himself unable to execute the original design, sent, on their way up the river, his partner Knox on board Winter's vessel, to say, that he durst not stop; but that he should bring up at the Custom-house-road for the night, and they might do it there. Winter's party, however, did not relish this plan; they were afraid of the police-boats; and the matter dropt there for the time.

W. H. Winter, Wm. Allen, and Joseph Knox, do not appear to have had any thing to do in the business after this. R. Fenwick also quitted the party on their return up the river; but on hearing of the subsequent robbery, he again sought them out, and assisted in the sale and conveyance of the goods, &c. Bampton, although not afterwards an active agent, remained in the secret, and kept purposely out of the way on the night of the robbery.

After the hoy was moored at the Custom-house road, Joseph Winter, Brown, and Armstrong, continued to make their observations, and thinking the business could still be

done, they determined on carrying it into execution on the night of Tuesday the 7th of July; but their party being now diminished by the absence of W. H. Winter, Knox, and Fenwick, they applied, through Armstrong, to an acquaintance of his, one Ivey (11), toy-merchant, in Artillery-lane, Bishopsgate-street, who agreed to join them, and also to bring two more with him,—men who feared nothing; and accordingly the whole party, viz. Winter, Brown, Armstrong, Ivey, Ben Caddick (12), William Taylor (13), and Benjamin Allan (14), (the latter enlisted by Brown), met at nine o'clock on Tuesday evening, at the sign of the Three Tuns, in Thames-street, where they finally concerted their plan, and carried it into effect the same night, by three of the party (Brown, Caddick, and Taylor) going on board of the hoy, and moving her off from the quay at which she lay, alongside of Winter's barge, at what is called the road, where she had been brought for the purpose the night before, and where they found the rest of their party ready for them.

During this time they do not appear to have met with any interruption, except from one of the Custom-house Officers, who, when they first came on board, looked up from below, and asked, "Is that you, Jem?" (meaning Bampton.) Caddick, who it was previously agreed upon should personate Bampton, answered "Yes." The officer then asked where they were going with the vessel; and Caddick answered, "They were going to haul off to the road, as the goods were to go into the London Dock, and they must be ready for the next tide;" adding "so do you go below, and turn into my bed, out the way;" which the silly fool appears to have done. When they got the hoy alongside Winter's barge, they fastened the scuttle down where the two officers were, broke open the hatches, and took out ten bales of Valencia raw silk, and four trunks of ostrich feathers, put them into Winter's barge, and immediately proceeded up the river, to Baker's Dock, a place a little below Blackfriars-bridge, on the Surry side, and there landed them. A person of the name of Norman (15) (by whom he was engaged does not yet appear) had previously hired of one Isaac Wentworth, a butcher, a stable in Woolpack-yard, Woolpack-alley, Gravel-lane; and Norman was waiting at Baker's Dock with a cart, and conveyed (at twice) the goods to this stable, assisted chiefly by Caddick and Benjamin Allen.

Shortly after the alarm had been given of the Sisters hoy having been robbed, Charles Sayers, a waterman, in the employ of Lucas and Co. informed his employers of his suspicions against Brown and Winter, he (Sayers) having been tampered with by the former, previously to their excursion down the river on this business, to be one of the party, which he refused; and from having heard the same two persons, after their return, damning, &c. Bampton for having deceived them, swearing at the same time "they would still have it." This led to the apprehension of Brown and Winter, who stoutly denied all knowledge of the transaction; but it having been judged prudent to question Bampton also, who was never before suspected, he let out all the particulars of the original conspiracy to rob his vessel, as above detailed; in consequence of which, W. H. Winter, Wm. Allen, and Joseph Knox, were also apprehended. Fenwick and Armstrong had both absconded, and could not be found.

Information had likewise been given in the meanwhile by Wentworth, the butcher, of improper doings going on, as he thought, from his stable, and of his having taken the name and number of a cart employed to convey away goods from thence, in consequence of which the Union-Hall officers searched the stable, and found about 160lb. of silk and a quantity of ostrich feathers. Norman, who had hired the stable, was looked for, but was not forthcoming. Sprigs (16), the owner of the cart, was taken into custody, but nothing could be got from him, except that he had been hired by a person, a stranger to him, to do a job: that his cart had been loaded without his assistance, and that he conveyed a number of bags, containing, "as he was told," and "as he supposed," clothes, to the top of Water-lane, Fleet-street, where they were put into another cart, by the person who accompanied him, and who, after giving him half-a-crown, drove off, he did not know where. Sprigs, with the other six mentioned to be apprehended, remained in custody from about the middle of July, to Saturday, the 22d of August, during which time they underwent several examinations, but nothing transpiring which could fix them with the actual felony, the Magistrate judged it proper to discharge the whole of them.

On the same day that the parties were discharged (Aug. 22) from the Thames Police Office, information reached the Consignees of the silk, that a quantity of raw Valencia silk was

working at the mills of Mr. Theophilus Perceval, at Bruton, in Somersetshire, and as no other silk of the same description had been imported for many months, two persons were immediately sent down to Bruton, and there learned from Mr. Perceval, that about 630lb. of Valencia silk had been sent to him to be thrown, by Mr. Thomas Green, Worship-square, London, against whom a warrant was immediately taken out; but he being at that time at Coventry, it was with some difficulty got from his people, that he had purchased the silk of persons of the firm of Stevens and Gibbs, Cumberland-street, Worship-street. They were waited on, and, after considerable hesitation and threats, acknowledged they had bought it, under an impression of its being smuggled, of Robert Cooper, Ratcliffe-highway, shewing at the same time his receipt for part of the money paid him. Cooper was taken into custody the same evening, and confronted with Gibbs, but steadily denied having ever had any dealings with him whatsoever. Finding, however, the rope likely to be put round his own neck, he, within a day or two thereafter, sent for Mr. Harriott, the Magistrate, and disclosed the whole circumstances of the robbery, and the parties to it, offering at the same time to produce five cwt. more of the silk, provided he were admitted to bail, which was refused. The offenders were then again sought for, and George Brown, who was the first taken, very eagerly let out the truth of the story. Fenwick also spoke. Within a short time, Winter, Allan, Ivey, Bampton, Knox, Sprigs, and Taylor, were taken into custody; Norman, Caddick, Ingram, and Armstrong, have not been found, but rewards have been offered for their apprehension, of 40l. each man. Cooper stedfastly refused to give up the silk still under his control, unless admitted to bail, or to be King's evidence; but finding no conditions would be listened to, he at length produced it, by sending his wife with an officer down to Horndon-on-the Hill, in Essex, where 516lb. of it were delivered up by a person of the name of Thompson (17.) The whole quantity of silk contained in the ten bales, was about 1,600lb. and there has been recovered at Bruton 630lb.; in the stable, &c. 120lb.; at Horndon 516lb.; together 1,266lb., leaving about 300lb. still to account for; which, Cooper says, Caddick and Norman disposed of for their own private accounts.

After a long examination at the Thames Police Office, on Wednesday, Sept. 30, Cooper, the receiver, Winter, Allan,

Knox, Ivey, Taylor, and Sprigs, were fully committed for trial, and sent to Newgate; and Brown, Fenwick, and Bampton, admitted as evidence for the Crown.

When the prisoners had withdrawn, an examination took place upon the charge, which, in the course of the evidence, had transpired against Mr. G. Harris. This person had been summoned as an evidence, and regularly attended the Court; his brother likewise attended the Court in the character of attorney for the prisoners.

Mr. Harris, the elder, and a Mr. Bellis, rose on behalf of the accused, and hoped the Magistrate, as well as the Gentlemen for the prosecution, would withdraw such notice. Mr. H. protested, that his brother was entirely innocent as to any participation of the guilt of the prisoners.

Harris was ordered to be detained, to be brought up for farther examination.

The evidence given on the same day at the Thames Police Office, by George Brown, a waterman, exhibits a scene which may not be ineffectual in throwing a light upon the ulterior proceedings.

In the beginning of June he said, "William Armstrong, a lighterman, told me, there were some valuable goods expected to arrive in Stangate-creek; that he should have information when they were delivering, from the master of a hoy, about stealing them on their way from the creek to London. I agreed to be concerned. The prisoner J. S. Winter agreed to assist; they next spoke to Ralph Fenwick, who promised to join them when called upon.

As soon as the barge got charge of the goods, it was determined to go down, seize upon, and plunder it. It was agreed that Bampton would let us know when he went to the creek for those valuable goods, and we were to wait and follow him for the purpose of stealing them.

On Thursday, the 25th of June, Bampton came to my house and told me he was going down of chance, with ten bales of silk and four boxes of feathers, and he would let us know when he started, so that we might get ready. On Friday I met Armstrong, Winter, and Fenwick, and W. Allen, at the White Horse, in the Borough. Armstrong and Winter said they had seen Bampton, and arranged with him when to go down; and it was agreed upon that Winter and Armstrong should go to Greenhithe, where Winter's barge lay, and R. Fenwick, W. Allen, and myself to get to

Gravesend, and Fenwick was to speak to Ingram, about receiving in the barge the property. They were to follow and keep the Sisters in sight. Ivey, Caddick, and Taylor were also of the party. (After concerting these measures), he proceeds: they went to the Newcastle Arms, and drank each a glass of gin. We then separated our parties in Thames-street—Winter, Allen, and Armstrong went towards the Tower; myself, Allen, and Taylor went down to the Custom-house passage, and got on the key, from which we stepped on board the hoy, and began to cast off. Winter came on board and assisted. I cast off the head-rope to run up the hoy to the tier; as she was a-going, one of the officers looked up and said, 'Is that you, Jem Caddick?' Answered 'Yes.' He then asked, 'Where are you going with the vessel?' Craddick answered, 'We're a-going to the road, and in the morning to the Dock, so you go below and turn into my bed out of the way.' It was agreed on, in case any of the officers spoke to us, Caddick was to personate Bampton. The officer returning below, the scuttle was locked over, and secured. We then sheered up the Hoy alongside Winter's barge. The locks were then broke open, and the hatches taken off. The goods were taken out of the hold; we worked the barge to Baker's dock, near Blackfriars; Caddick went to fetch the carts; another man came with him after the second load was housed, whom I knew to be Norman. It was then about day-light; a watchman was sweeping the causeway; we gave him money to hold his tongue. The next Thursday the parties met at the Royal Oak, Vauxhall. Ivey, who undertook to dispose of the goods, said, there had been so much stir about them he could not get rid of them, but if they were housed some time, and the bustle blown over, he could. Caddick and I then said, we know a man, named Cooper, who would put ready money into their hands. Ivey then said they might do so. Cooper agreed to give 20s. a lb. for the silk, and agreed to take from 12 to 14 hundred weight; he said he did not care if it were twice as much, he would pay us as he took it. Cooper knew of the robbery, and advised us to keep snug; there was an appointment to meet Cooper, Caddick, and Norman next morning, at an old iron-shop, in Golden-lane, to see the silk weighed; we were desired by Caddick to ask for him by the name of Jackson; as I and Winter were going up the Borough, we were taken into custody, by the

officers, Goff and Hutchins. Mr. Harris, the attorney, came to me in Clerkenwell Prison, and said nothing could hurt us if we only kept our own Council; and said he had an order from Cooper to let us have what money we wanted. Mr. Harris's brother first gave me 20l. then 14l. and afterwards 8l. Harris himself gave me 2l. at the Thames Police, the day we were discharged. Two or three days after we were discharged, we met at the Sir William Walworth, Camberwell-road. Cooper said the whole amount he would have to pay, would be 900l.; we said this was not half enough. He paid us at different times 300l. and 200l. On the Monday following, he was to pay the balance of the 900l. when he was taken into custody by Mr. Gotty.

Mr. Harman, attorney for the prosecution, having this day, as on former occasions, examined a number of fresh witnesses, Mr. Alley, the Counsel for the prosecution, then summed up the evidence, as tending to show cause for the criminals at the bar being individually committed on the charge of feloniously stealing the property in question.

When the prisoners had withdrawn, an examination took place upon the charge, which, in the course of the evidence had transpired against one of the parties who had been summoned as an evidence, and regularly attended the Court.

The Magistrates left it to the gentlemen for the prosecution, whether they chose to lodge an information against him, to which they answered in the affirmative. It was then stated, on behalf of the accused, that the party was entirely innocent as to any participation of the guilt of the prisoners.

The Counsel for the prosecution replied, that if this was the case, it was in his power to justify himself, if he felt himself competent to do away the charge.

A considerable delay occurred by a consultation between those interested on the subject: when, at length, the individual admitted being concerned with Cooper as an agent, for the sale of the silk, upon a commission of two per cent. That when he undertook to act as an agent, he understood Cooper to be a respectable man; he never acquainted him with the true manner in which he came by the silk. He only informed him that it was smuggled, and as such he agreed to dispose of it for him. He referred to Mr. Ferrol, whether he did not state this circumstance at the time, that he believed it to be smuggled. Mr. Ferrol admitted this fact, and so far corroborated the testimony of the party. It was

proposed to examine the woman who was employed to carry the silk, by whose evidence it would appear, that the goods never were in his possession, but came direct from Cooper to Mr. Prater's, who, it appeared, suspected the goods, and refused to receive them.

The following particulars transpired on the second examination of G. Harris, at the Thames Police Office.

G. Brown sworn.—Mr. G. Harris came to us while we were in custody at Clerkenwell Prison, and said, that he was sent by Cooper to attend us: He said nothing could hurt us if we all kept our own council; and he had an order from Cooper to let us have what money we wanted. Both Taylor and Allan visited us in prison, and we sent them to Harris for money. Mr. G. Harris first brought us 20l. he next brought us 14l. and afterwards 8l.; and S. Harris gave me 2l. at the Thames Police Office when we were discharged. The evening before I was taken into custody, I went with Winter to Mr. S. Harris's house for money, and saw both S. and G. Harris; and I think S. Harris told us he would see Mrs. Cooper about it, and desired me to call the next morning; and we were going there, when we were met by Mr. Hutchison and Smith, who apprehended me.

T. Farrow sworn.—I am a silk broker, at 36, Cornhill: To the best of my recollection, the latter part of June a person left a sample of Valencia raw silk, and two or three days afterwards G. Harris called, and said he had left it. He applied to me to sell it, and stated, that he had one cwt. He afterwards, I believe, on the following day, said he had two cwt. He asked me 26s. per lb. He said, Mr. Ballard, of Little Love-lane, Wood-street, had offered 25s. which he had refused. I told him I could do nothing about it, being very busy. He left it, and went away. It remained on my sample-board, and, about the 10th or 11th of July, I showed it to Mr. Cook. About the 17th of July I shewed it to Mr. Smithers. I showed it to Mr. Prater, and he was the only person to whom I did show it for sale; this was subsequent to Mr. Cooke's seeing it, and before I sent to Mr. Smithers, I told him the price was 26s. He agreed to take it, and I referred him to Mr. Harris, as a principal. I saw Mr. G. Harris, and he told me the parties were agreed, and a woman afterwards brought the silk in two bundles to Mr. Prater's. Harris was present at the delivery; Mr. Prater was not at home. His clerk, Mr. Codd, was there. I saw it weighed.

To the best of my recollection, it weighed 100 lbs.—No one attended as the principal but G. Harris. I saw Mr. Prater the following morning, who said, he would have nothing to do with it, and desired that Mr. Harris would send for it back. I acquainted Mr. Harris that Mr. Prater would have nothing to do with it. I have known Harris about a year and a half. His brother had worked a Commission; I was creditor, and adjusted the account, and by this means became acquainted with Harris. I did not know that Harris was a seller of silk. On inquiring afterwards, he stated that he had sold silk to Mr. Ballard, of Gutter-lane, Mr. Green, and Mr. Holland, of Gutter-lane, and Mr. Stanbridge and Son, of Wood-street; and I found it to be true. I knew him only as clerk to his brother, an attorney. The full value of the silk, at ten months credit, I think, would be 32s. Being afterwards pressed by Mr. Grant (a partner in the house of Reid, Bell, and Co.) to give up the name of my principal, for whom I showed the sample, I applied to the said G. Harris, and saw him at his brother's, the attorney, several times. He told me the silk could not belong to Mr. Grant's robbery, and said we had better not say any thing about it, and requested me not to give up his name: and the impression on my mind was, that I was not to give up the name of Mr. G. or of Mr. S. Harris. To the best of my recollection, no Valencia silk had been in the market for six months before. I understood from Harris that he was selling it for another person. He told me the parties were respectable; that he was to have a commission for the sale; he said it was in the hands of respectable people, and therefore I inferred that it was not in his possession. Having heard the account of G. Harris, as far as it relates to me, I believe it to be perfectly correct. I never heard the name of Cooper; I told Mr. Prater the silk was run.

William Codd sworn.—I am clerk to Mr. Prater, silk-manufacturer, at No. 8, Noble-street.—The book produced is Mr. Prater's waste-book. On the 14th of July, it appears, from an entry in my hand-writing, that Mr. Farrow called on the 16th and 17th; he called between the 14th and 17th. I understood he called about some silk; I do not know any thing which passed between Mr. Farrow and Mr. Prater about the silk previous to the delivery; it was delivered on one of those days. Harris was present at the delivery. Mr. Farrow and I weighed it: it weighed 190lb. Harris called the next day, and left a paper with his signa-

ture, G. Harris, which he wrote in my presence, and told me, if any person brought that signature, I was to deliver the silk. A woman called, the same who had brought it, and produced that note—"Mr. Prater, please to deliver the goods to the bearer, G. Harris"—to whom I delivered the silk. Mr. Prater did not like the manner in which the silk was brought, nor the packages in which it was in; they were unusual packages; they were in sacks, apparently corn-sacks, which were marked J. and I. Gaunt.

W. Prater sworn.—I live in Noble-street, I am a silk-weaver and a silk-man. I remember being applied to by Mr. Farrow to purchase some silk, on or about the 15th of July last. He then spoke of one hundred weight. He brought a sample. It was Valencia raw silk. I am not quite certain whether he named the price then; but afterwards 26s. I saw no one but Mr. Farrow upon the subject. I desired to see the bulk. Mr. Farrow said I could not see the silk. I told him I thought it had been stolen, because I had heard of the robbery, and I knew no Valencia silk had been properly in the market for some time. On the 16th and 17th the bulk was sent in. I then found it to be Valencia raw silk; it was delivered in my absence. I was indignant at its having been sent in. I wished to have seen it before it was sent into my warehouse. I desired it to be sent back directly. It was sent in a very unmarketable state.

The evidence being now gone through, the material points were summed up by Mr. Gurney, for the prosecution; when the Magistrate signified his intention of ordering the prisoner to be fully committed.

We shall not dwell upon the learned discussion which took place, further than to state, that Mr. Adolphus, for the defence, contended against the charge in general, and maintained, that under the circumstances of the case, the Magistrate could not well be considered, in a legal point of view, as possessing the authority of fully committing the prisoner for trial. The case admitted of many distinctions, he said, between a person receiving stolen goods, and not having cognizance of the theft, and that of a person not being himself a receiver, but merely becoming possessed of goods which, it appeared, came from another hand, who was the only person to be considered the receiver in this case.

The Magistrate briefly replied, that he was called upon, under all the circumstances now before him, to discharge

what he conceived to be his public duty; and this without submitting to be trammelled in with difficult distinctions, or nice subtilties of law. He felt satisfied, however, in hearing whatever these gentlemen on either side of the question had thought proper to say, either for his information, or in behalf of the parties concerned.

The prisoner, G. Harris, was then ordered to be fully committed for trial.

THE TRIAL.

ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30,

COMMENCED AT THE OLD BAILEY.

WHEN Joseph Simmonds Winter, Benjamin Allen, William Taylor, Joseph Knox, Thomas Ivey, Robert Cooper, and George Harris, being put to the bar, charged with stealing on a certain navigable river, that is to say, the river Thames, ten bales of silk and two cases of ostrich feathers, of the value of 2000*l.* and upwards, the property of Robert Hutchison.

Mr. BOWLAND briefly opened the case.

Mr. GURNEY followed, and opened to the Jury a view of the whole transaction—one of the most extraordinary in its nature, and the most extensive in its consequences, that had happened for several years. He adverted to the deep combination among so many men as he should introduce to the notice of the Jury—to the secret so long kept among them—and, from the whole tenour of the case, he was sure they would see that it had a most alarming tendency, and that it affected the vital interest of the trade of London. At the same time he felt himself bound in duty to tell them, that the greatest part of the evidence he was to bring against the Prisoners, was from accomplices; and it would defeat the true and fair purposes of justice, were he to desire them to place explicit faith in their testimony, unless corroborated by other evidence. The Learned Counsel then gave a brief view of the case, which will be better exemplified in the following report of the evidence.

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Joseph Milner, a London merchant, said, that his house had an agent at Gibraltar for the Levant trade; and they had received bills of lading, and an invoice from that place, shipped on board the *Velocity* brig, the contents of which they had never received. The invoice was handed to the Court and read; it mentioned ten bales of Valentian silks, numbered from one to ten, inclusively, and marked F. M. H. weighing, according to Valencia weight, 2090lbs. This invoice was dated Gibraltar, dated May 15, 1812.

Mr. Solomon Israel, broker, Cornhill, had also received a bill of lading and invoice from Gibraltar, of the same date, of the two cases of ostrich feathers by the same vessel, the *Velocity*, but had never received them.

Mr. Charles Saunders was superintendant of quarantine at Standgate Creek; remembered the brig *Velocity* coming there from the Mediterranean to perform quarantine; she arrived on the 13th of June, and her papers were regularly forwarded to London. On the 27th of June, he received an order from Captain Blythe, master of the *Velocity*, to deliver the goods he had left on board the *Lazaretto* to James Bampton. He in consequence wrote an order to have the goods delivered to the Sisters hoy, of which James Bampton was master; and he produced the receipt for such goods, signed "James Bampton," and dated the 4th of July. He knew nothing of the contents of the bales, nor of the marks.

John Mills, master of the *Belleisle lazaretto*, in Standgate-Creek, remembered the arrival of the brig *Velocity*, Captain Blythe, from Gibraltar. He received from her, among other goods, ten bales of silk, two cases, and two trunks of ostrich feathers. He knows the package of goods from the Mediterranean, and was confident that the goods were really according to the description given of them. He attended to air the bales of silk, but did not see them opened—he saw the box of feathers opened; some were mottled, and some quite black. Those goods remained fifteen days under quarantine in his custody, and under his immediate inspection. He then produced the book in which he enters the goods received at the *Lazaretto*, containing an account of those left by the brig *Velocity*, and which perfectly coincided with the marks and numbers contained in the bills of lading produced before. He had no doubt the bales contained silk, although he did not see them opened. On the 4th of July he delivered those goods by order, to the Sisters hoy, James Bampton, master. He saw one of the trunks, which had contained ostrich feathers,

in the Thames Police-Office ; it corresponded with the marks in his book, and had no doubt but it contained part of the goods he delivered to the Sisters hoy.

John Solesbery, tide-waiter, belonging to the port of Rochester, had been formerly a fisherman ; was placed on duty in the Sisters hoy in Standgate-creek, with Reid, as his partner ; James Bampton was master of the hoy, but he could not see among the prisoners who was the mate. He and his partner went on board the hoy in Standgate-creek on the 3d of July ; on the 4th they left Standgate-creek, and at night reached the Custom-house Quay. They were replaced by two other officers, whose names he did not know, and left the vessel at half-past eight on Sunday morning. On the whole, he could not positively identify Joseph Knox as being mate of the Sisters hoy.

John Reid's (his partner) testimony went to the same effect.

Mr. Robert Hutchison was owner of the Sisters hoy ; he resided in St. Catherine-place, and was by trade a ship-owner. He received from Messrs. Payne and Fry, ship-brokers, in June, an order to fetch from Standgate Creek, 10 bales of silk, 881 salted hides, 2 cases, and 2 trunks of ostrich feathers, 6 bales of returned cloth, and 3 bales of matts. He understood those goods had come by the Velocity ; and to fetch them he sent his hoy, the Sisters, of which James Bampton was master, at the same time he identified Joseph Knox, one of the prisoners, as mate of that vessel. On Sunday, the 5th of July, he heard of the return of his hoy from Standgate Creek, and of its arrival at Galley Quay, opposite the Custom-house. He did not see Knox ; but Bampton delivered him an account of the cargo, corresponding with his orders. About eleven he went to see the vessel, and found her on shore, according to his directions, and on inspecting it found all safe. On the Wednesday Knox came and told him that the vessel had been robbed of ten bales of silk, and of two cases of ostrich feathers. He went immediately to the Thames Police-office, to give information, and then on board his vessel, where he found that the hatches had been broken open, and that the vessel was then in the fourth tier, called the Dublin Tier, on the London side of the river, unmoored, and only kept in by the tide. He then went to Bow-street to make his report and request assistance. On the Monday following, in consequence of some information, he went to a stable in Wool-

pack yard, Blackfriars, two or three hundred yards distant from Baker's Dock. He was accompanied by Goff, Friend, and Clarke, police-officers. On their arrival they found the stable-door locked, but one of the officers burst it open; they found in it some silks and outside wrappers of the bales, and ostrich feathers, some in black bags, some loose, some in the bin, and some in the manger, and also a trunk marked L. J. He himself, on Thursday, the 9th of July, took Knox and Bampton into custody; on the evening of the same day Brown, and Winter the prisoner, and several others, were also taken up and discharged. Sprigs, the carman (who had conveyed the goods) was also taken up and discharged; (he is again in confinement, and to be tried in Surrey, as the goods were conveyed into that county). In consequence of information he received some time after, he went to Broughton, in Somersetshire, to Mr. Perceval, a silk throwster in that part of the country, and there he found parcels of silk, part of the skaines of which had been cut off (which is accounted for by the hurry of the robbers in cutting the outside wrappers); above fifty or sixty pounds of that silk was then in the raw state. He then returned to town and went a second time in quest of the prisoners, with Smith, the officer. He met with Brown, the prisoner Winter, and two or three of the others, he could not tell whom, in the upper part of Houndsditch; he himself secured Brown, after some resistance, and Smith, for that time, did not succeed in taking Winter. Brown never owned any thing until that, his second apprehension.

William Huxtable, a deaf extra tide-waiter of the port of London, stated, that he and Charles O'Neil, his partner, went on duty on board the Sisters hoy, on Sunday the 5th of July, at half past eight in the morning. The ship was then lying at Galley Quay. He did not know the officers he went to relieve. He did not examine the cargo, as it was not his business, but saw that the hatches were fast locked. He was not on board when Mr. Hutchison came to visit the vessel on Monday, being absent on shore upon leave, but returned on board on Monday afternoon, and saw the hatches were fast until half-past three on Tuesday afternoon, when the vessel began unloading. The witness then gave an account of the articles unloaded on that day, but which have no reference to the present case. While the vessel was thus unloading, two men came on board to see Knox; all three went down to the cabin to drink, and they left off working;

one of them had a blue apron; they staid until five o'clock, and then went on shore across the lighters with Knox, in the direction of Tower-stairs, his partner and he being left on board.—[He was then desired to look at the prisoners, but could identify none of them but Knox.]—O'Neil had the first watch until twelve o'clock, when he took it himself. At about five minutes past one on that night he heard a noise upon deck, like a parcel of ropes working upon deck. He was then sitting on the locker below, and was going upon deck, directly, but a man met him at the top of the cabin ladder; the witness asked him who he was? and the man answered he was Jem, by which the witness understood James Bampton, the master of the hoy. The night was very dark. The witness asked the supposed Jem what he was going to do with the vessel? to which the man answered, that he was going to bring her to the buoy, as he had an order in his pocket to bring her to the London Docks the next day, and he pulled out a piece of paper, pretending it to be that order. The witness then saw another man forward, whom the same person told him was Joe (Knox, the mate). The witness remained some time on the ladder, but not long enough to see what they were doing with the vessel. The man who had spoken to him, again called him, and told him, "that if the owner of the hoy should call in the morning, he should tell him that they would be in time in the morning to bring her to the docks according to his directions; that they would see the hoy fast; and that he might go below," which he did. The people above shut down the scuttle, and he went to sleep. He awoke at about four o'clock in the morning, and wanted to go upon deck, but found the scuttle fastened; he then tried the sky-light, but this was fastened too; he awoke his partner, and they both broke the sky-light and went through it upon deck. They then examined the hoy, and found the hatches broken open, but did not go below. All the hatches were safe when he went down that night, and he had tried the locks.

Charles O'Neil, the other tide-officer, corroborated the testimony of the last witness in every respect, without adding much to it, except that the vessel was, at the time of the robbery, within the jurisdiction of the City.

James Bampton was, in June and July last, master of the Sisters hoy, belonging to Mr. R. Hutchison, and Joseph Knox, the prisoner, was his mate. He knew Jos. Simmons Winter, the prisoner at the bar, and pointed him out; he had also

seen Benjamin Allen, and pointed to him. He did not know William Taylor, but thought he had seen him. He did not know Ingram (not taken); had never seen Cooper; knew two men of the name of Brown and Fenwick; he also knew William Allen, and William Henry Winter, brother to Joseph Winter, the prisoner at the bar, and Armstrong (not yet taken). In the month of June he was desired to fetch a cargo of rags from Standgate Creek. In that voyage he got acquainted with Joseph Simmons Winter, the prisoner at the bar, with Armstrong, Brown, Fenwick, and William Allen. When he came to London, after that voyage, he met with Joseph Winter and Armstrong at the place where his hoy lay, close to the Custom-house. Armstrong called on him to come on shore, as he had something to tell him; he went on shore accordingly, and met Armstrong and Joseph Winter in company. They asked him, if he knew what goods were in Standgate Creek, left by the brig Velocity? He said he did not know, but believed there were some silks and ostrich feathers. They then asked him if he knew to whom they belonged (meaning what hoy was to bring them out) whether to Mr. Hutchson or to Mr. Tanner? He said he did not know; and they then requested he would let him know if he should learn, which he promised to do, and if he could meet incither of them he was to call on Brown, whose direction they gave him, in a court next Chapel-court, in the Borough. Four or five days afterwards, he believed on Thursday, the 25th of June, he learnt that he was to fetch those goods from Standgate; and on the same day, according to promise, he walked from Blackwall to Brown's residence, and apprized him of it. The Saturday following, he saw William Allen, whom he also made acquainted with the circumstance. On the evening of the same day, he met Joseph Winter in the street, who told him that Armstrong was in a public-house just at hand, the Sugar Loaf. He went in with him, and found Armstrong, who asked him when he was to go down to Standgate Creek? He answered, to-morrow morning, which was on Sunday. Armstrong then asked him how many bales of silk he was to fetch, and he answered ten, with four cases or boxes of ostrich feathers. Winter (who commanded a sailing-berge) then said, that he thought it would be better for him not to go all the way down to Sheerness, with his barge, but that the best way would be to stop the barge at the Lower Hope, from which they could walk over, and observe with a spy-glass for his coming out of Standgate Creek. He added,

that he would see Brown, and arrange with him what would be the best way. Armstrong then asked, when the goods would be out of quarantine? to which the witness answered, that it was expected they would be off on Tuesday evening. He understood all along, that in this conversation, they were settling the plan of plundering the vessel, and that it was to be done in the voyage up the river. From the beginning he had told Knox, his mate, whatever had passed between him and Winter, and Armstrong, from their first meeting, and he agreed to every thing, and consented to make one of the party.—It had been agreed it should be executed in the following manner:—Brown, Armstrong, and Fenwick, were to come down in Winter's barge, with both Winters; they were to anchor in the river, come along side his hoy, shut the witness with his mate Knox, along with the officers below, or force them below, if they were upon deck, then break open the hatches, and carry the silks and the ostrich feathers away, but it was not settled at that time, where the property was to be carried. Knox had agreed to this, as to every thing else. On Sunday the 28th of June, he sailed from Blackwall for Standgate Creek, where he arrived on the Monday following. Knox sailed with him as his mate, and he had besides on board, his wife and two children. When he arrived, he found the goods were not ready for him, nor likely to be so before Friday the 3d of July. While waiting for them, he saw Winter's barge, she was lying contiguous to Sheerness, and on Wednesday the 1st of July, he and Knox went on board of her. They found on board, Armstrong, Joseph Winter, Brown, William Henry Winter, Fenwick, and W. Allen, all in company together. They asked witness when he was to come out of the creek? He told them the goods would not be ready until Friday, at seven o'clock at night, and that he did not expect to go until Sunday morning. They said it was a bad job, as they had already appointed people to prepare for the conveyance of the property on Tuesday or Wednesday, as from the intelligence he had formerly given them, they expected he would come out on Tuesday. It was then arranged that Fenwick should go by one of the Sheerness or Chatham passage-boats to Gravesend, and from thence make the best of his way up channel, and acquaint the people who were waiting, that they had been for the moment disappointed in the expectation of the property. He himself while on shore at Sheerness, saw Fenwick put on board the Chatham Packet, by Allen, who afterwards returned on board

Winter's barge. When he was on board that barge, the party there assembled asked him what he meant to do, if he had a fair wind coming out of Standgate Creek? His answer was, that he would make the best of his way up.—But they said this would never do, as they would not be able then to accomplish their purpose.—They then requested of him if he had a fair wind, to run his vessel a-ground, for if he went too high up, they never should be able to carry their plan into execution. He then agreed to run his vessel a-ground; but no particular spot was fixed upon. He was then asked what he should do with the officers? To which he answered, he should fasten them below, and if they were not there, contrive to get them below. This was approved of, no specific time was mentioned, but it was agreed that they should board about dusk, and Winter's barge was to keep a-head of him. He sailed on Saturday morning, fourth of July, from Standgate Creek, having on board the goods, as mentioned by Mr. Hutchison, and accompanied by Solesbery and Reid, the two Custom-house officers, who were not known to him before. He made the best of his way up, and saw Winter's barge a good way a-stern, up to Sea-reach. In the mean time, he did not like to run the vessel on shore, he saw it was a very dangerous business, and after their last visit at Winter's barge, he and Knox had agreed not to do it at all. They did not, however, notify that resolution to the party while at Sheerness. On Saturday, when in the Lower Hope, he sent Knox to Winter's barge, under the pretence to get some drink from his uncle, in order to blind the officers, to tell the party that he could not run the hoy on shore, as he had a man on board, (Solesbery) who was as well acquainted with the River as himself. He told Knox to say at the same time, that if they liked, they might do it in the Custom house-road, where he would stop. Knox, on coming back, said, they insisted on his stopping between Gravesend and Blackwall; but he did not, and arrived in Custom-house road at eleven o'clock, and fastened the vessel to a buoy set in the middle of the river for that purpose. On Sunday, he met Armstrong at Dock-head, who asked him, how he could think of deceiving them in that manner, by running his vessel up? when he answered, he conceived the attempt to be too dangerous; and, after some further conversation, they parted. In the afternoon of the same day, Joseph Winter called upon him at his house, and began the same complaints, saying, that he had not only deceived them, but also the party who were to have the property, and

that they might as well have 50l. each in their pocket, as to have not a farthing. He made Winter the same excuses as to Armstrong. Winter then proposed various ways to move the hoy from where she was, but he shewed the impossibility of every one of them, without knowing, however, whether or no he had convinced him of the impracticability of the scheme. On Monday morning he returned to the hoy, which lay close to the quay. In rowing in his own boat he came alongside Winter's barge, where he saw Winter and Armstrong. After some conversation not relevant to the present subject, Winter asked him if he would bring the vessel in the roads in case she was not unloading? to which he answered, he was afraid it would not be in his power, and then left them. He saw Armstrong the same day on board another barge, and asked him whether or no he intended attending a benefit club, of which they were both members, as it was a feast night. Armstrong said he should not, and the witness went, but Armstrong was not there. He was entrusted by his employer to take care of his property. He had been employed by him two or three years.

Mr. ALLEY here examined the witness as to his being liable to accusation on the ground of other offences, which the Court, after a short argument from Mr. ALLEY, overruled.

Witness then continued, that he had agreed the vessel, containing the property, should be run ashore on the Fly-sand, and the property there taken ont. He said, those who were implicated in the business were always in company together. He never heard Brown say, that he committed the robbery. He had no conversation with Fenwick since the robbery. He admitted, that when he first stated the business, there was some variation from his present account; but when he related it the second time, he did not vary from the statement he had given this day.

Mr. James Harmer, attorney for the prosecution, stated, that he attended the several examinations before the Magistrates, of some of the persons then at the bar. Bampton and Knox were discharged, on the 27th of August. Bampton's evidence was the same before the Magistrates and in the Court.

Edward Harding Musson, barge-master, and owner of the Two Brothers barge, deposed, that the Prisoner Winter was some time since the sailing-master on board that vessel. He (the Prisoner) gave his own labour, and that of an appren-

tice, and also procured freights, for which he had half the profits; or, as it was termed, he sailed upon shares. He found his own labour and that of his apprentice; witness found wear and tear. He recollected, some days previous to the robbery, when the barge was going down the Thames, he saw a third person in her, and asked Winter, who was that he had on board the barge? To that question, he was answered, that the stranger was a young man, in very bad health, and going to take a trip with him down to the Nore.

Mrs. Sarah Bampton, wife of James Bampton, deposed as to her having seen several of the parties implicated in the robbery, call on her husband, and spoke particularly of Armstrong and Knox.

George Brown, the waterman, repeated the evidence he had given before the Magistrate, at the Thames Police Office, adding the following particulars; viz. that on the night of Tuesday, June 7, witness, Taylor and Caddick, by crossing a number of lighters, got on board the Sisters hoy, Armstrong and two others went round by the Tower-stairs. When witness and his companions came on board, they began to cast off the ropes, and Winter came on board to assist them. When the vessel was cast off, Winter went into the boat; a line was chucked to him, and he towed the Sisters alongside the barge. While they were thus occupied, one of the officers looked up the cabin hatchway, and called out, "Where are you going with the vessel?" Caddick immediately told him to go below, and turn in—that they were going to the road, and from thence to the London Docks. The officer asked, "Is that Jem?" (meaning Bampton,) and being answered that it was, he then went below. Witness and Caddick put the scuttle over, and made it fast with a bit of rope; they then got alongside Winter's barge, and having broken open the hatches of the Sisters hoy, Armstrong and Winter went into the hold, and handed up the bales and cases to Allen, Taylor, and Caddick. Witness was at this time on the deck of Winter's barge, and having received the packages from on board the Sisters, placed them in the hold of Winter's vessel. Ten bales and two cases were handed up to witness. The first seemed to be the same sort of packages in which silk usually comes. The cases were similar to those in which feathers are placed. The robbery having been committed, all the parties left the hoy, and set her adrift. They then proceeded in the barge to Baker's dock, on the south side of Blackfriar's Bridge, when they shoved her close to the shore. Caddick imme-

diately fetched a man with a cart, and the goods were sent to a certain stable, at two trips. When they were about to land, they felt it necessary to give Jones, an old watchman at the bridge, some money to insure his secrecy, and they had done the same at the Thames Police-office. They agreed to meet that evening at the Royal Oak, Vauxhall, at four o'clock. Benj. Allen, Winter, Fenwick, and Armstrong, met accordingly; they said, that nothing was done with the goods, but that all was safe.—They met next day at the Leaping-bar tap.—Caddick, Norman, and Uncle Dick were there. Fenwick, who was also present, was asked to take a sample of silk to Cooper's; Norman fetched a skain and gave it to him. Ivey said, after Fenwick made his appearance, that he would have nothing to do with the matter, as it was a dangerous concern; but he might be able to sell a part of the goods, "after the *stink* was blown over." Caddick said he could get a man who would pay for the property as he took it away, and he mentioned Cooper. Ivey then observed, that he expected to be paid for his trouble, and Caddick promised to satisfy him.

The trial having now lasted from ten o'clock in the morning till near eleven at night, the Jury requested leave to retire for a few minutes. On their return, the Counsel for the Prisoners proceeded to cross-examine the last witness—but the Court feeling that it would be impossible to finish the trial at one sitting, adjourned the further proceedings till next morning.

THIS morning, precisely at nine o'clock, Baron THOMPSON, and Mr. Justice CHAMBRE, with a number of the Magistrates, appeared on the Bench, and recommenced the examination of witnesses summoned to give evidence concerning this extraordinary robbery.

George Brown, the last witness on the preceding evening, was again brought up, and examined by Mr. GUENEY. He said, that Fenwick went away with the silk skain, and soon afterwards returned with Ingram, who informed them that Cooper was coming. Cooper soon after made his appearance, and Caddick, Norman, and Ivey, were present, with two others, whom he did not know. Cooper said, he did not

care how much silk there was, he would pay for it all, and take it away; and he agreed to give them 20s. per pound weight for it all. He inquired if any of them wanted money, and he was told, that Winter would require some to pay his master for the loss time of the barge. Cooper desired them to take care of themselves, and remain silent, and gave the witness three pounds. An appointment was made, for Caddick, Norman, and Cooper to meet at an old iron-shop in Golden-lane, where they were to inquire for Caddick, by the name of Jackson. Ivey and the witness then went into the Borough, to the Black Horse Inn, where Winter and Armstrong joined him. The witness informed them what had passed at the Leaping Bar public house; after which he and Winter went away, and walked homewards. They happened to meet Goff the officer, and a man named Thompson, who apprehended them both, and placed them in Coldbath-fields prison. The witness there saw Samuel Harris in the court-yard of the prison, who informed them that he was ordered by Mr. Cooper to assist them with money: they informed him that they wanted some, and he promised to send some by his brother. Next morning George Harris came to them, and gave them twenty pounds, and told them that they should not want for any thing while they were there: he said he came from his brother, and counselled them to keep their mouths closed. After four or five days they sent Taylor, who was not then in custody, for some more money from Harris. G. Harries accordingly called next day, and gave them fourteen pounds, which, he said, he brought from his brother. George Harris called a third time, and gave them eight pounds. After the witness had been examined several times at the Police Office, he was discharged. Two or three days afterwards Winter and he met, and appointed a day to go to Cooper's house: they went, and requested Cooper to give them money, and he informed them that he had already paid a good deal of money for the silk; he had paid fifty pounds to Fenwick, and two hundred pounds to Norman and Caddick, and upwards of seventy pounds to Armstrong. Cooper then appointed them to meet him at the Sir William Walworth, at Camberwell-road, to settle the business. They met accordingly, and it being the second day of Camberwell fair, they found the house crowded, and Cooper, Winter, Ingram, and the witness, walked out to the skittle-ground. Cooper there informed them, that he would pay nine hundred pounds for the whole. The witness told him that was not

half enough, and Cooper replied, that he could not obtain more than sixteen shillings per pound for the silk; besides, he had not received more than twenty pounds weight of the ostrich feathers, and they were black, and of little value. But, he said, he would give them fifty pounds, providing Winter would go with them that night, and he would settle on Monday the balance of the nine hundred pounds. Cooper mentioned that he had paid near two hundred pounds to Caddick, seventy pounds odd to Armstrong, and to the witness and Winter one hundred and twenty pounds. Twenty pounds, fourteen pounds, and eight pounds, the witness received from George Harris, and two pounds from Samuel Harris, all of which were reckoned into his share. Cooper mentioned also, that he had paid forty-seven pounds to Fenwick. Winter and himself went some nights afterwards, separately, to Cooper's house in Ratchiffe-highway; they were desired by Cooper to go to the second public house from where he lived, where they were some time afterwards joined by Ingram. This person told them that Cooper was apprehended by Goff and another officer, and he would get them some money, which he went out for, and returned with twenty pounds, being the whole that Cooper could spare, and he counselled them to disperse, and take care of themselves. Winter received part of this money, Allen also participated, and Taylor received a portion. The witness afterwards accompanied Winter to the house of Harris, in Houndsditch. They applied to Harris for money, who informed them that he would speak to Mrs. Cooper for them, and procure them money, and desired them to call upon him next day for it. Next afternoon, the witness, Winter, and Taylor, set off for the house, and as they passed through Moorfields, they were encountered by Smith the officer, and Mr. Hutchison. They apprehended the witness, and the two others got away. He was carried to Coldbath-fields prison, where he found Cooper; a few days after he was placed there, Cooper conversed with him through the gate that divided the courts. He told the witness, that the next Thursday when they went to be examined, he would be alarmed at his (Cooper's) evidence, but not to be frightened, for though they would all be committed on his evidence, he would afterwards get bail, and in eight and forty hours he would be out of the country. He treated the witness before that with half a bottle of wine, which was handed over the wall. Cooper informed the witness, that he heard he was going to turn nose; this the witness denied,

and accused Cooper of an intention to do so. He then went to Allen and Taylor, who were placed in the same prison, informing them that Cooper intended to hang them all; and if any of them had a wish to give evidence, his Majesty would accept it. He remembered, that on Sunday the 5th day of July, he was at the Harp public house, in Harp-lane, Lower Thames-street; he was in company with Winter, and a lighterman, of the name of Seers. They mentioned something about their errand to Sheerness, and said, they had been after the silk contained in the Sisters hoy, and desired Seers to go on board the hoy, and see if Bampton was there. Seers did not go. Winter went out of the house, and afterwards came back, saying, he had seen Bampton on board the hoy. The witness was admitted an evidence by the Magistrate, and by his permission appeared here from the House of Correction.

In his cross-examination, he admitted that he had run off with the King's boat to give intimation of the conspiracy at the Nore, for which he was tried before the Lords of the Admiralty, and acquitted. This was not the first time he had appeared in this Court; he was once tried for stealing a boat, but he was acquitted. He did not say to Fenwick that they would get two hundred pounds a-piece for the information they would give on this subject, and go a privateering with it. Fenwick and he had been acquainted for several years, he was a ship-chandler. He had never been concerned in any adventure with Fenwick that led him to any trouble; he understood that the plan for stealing these goods was formed by Armstrong and Bampton, and if any person said that he (the witness) had planned it, he said falsely. "It was the conduct of Cooper that induced the witness to tell all that he knew; but he first sent to Allen, Winter, and Taylor, desiring them to give evidence, and he would hold his tongue, which they refused. He was formerly in his Majesty's service, but not thinking proper to remain, he went ashore in a boat, for he and his brother, who was in the ship with him, could not agree. He came home in the *Bellona*, and was paid off.

George Seers, a lighterman, in the employment of Mr. Lucas, deposed, that on Wednesday morning, the 8th of July, he heard of the robbery of the hoy at the Custom-house. On the Sunday before, he was in company with Winter and Brown at the Harp in Harp-lane; he enquired of Brown what he had been up to for some time, and he answered he

hardly knew, he had been down the river for a fortnight with this young fellow, meaning Winter and a barge. He said, "George, I could fetch you in for a good thing," and on inquiry, the witness was informed that the hoy of Hutchison's was loaded with good silk, at the Custom-house, and cases of ostrich feathers, and Brown said, "George, you may as well have a hundred pounds or two as not, for such a haul is better than chandler's-shop work." The witness said it was a hazardous concern, and he dared have nothing to do with it. Brown then said to Winter that he would get the witness to go to Jem Bampton, to inform him that some person wanted him. The witness refused to go on such an errand, and Winter rose and said he would go. Winter went, and returned in a few minutes, and brought word that Jem was gone out of the hoy to dinner. They all got up, and the witness walked over London Bridge with Winter and Brown. Winter, as they passed along, made use of a vulgar expression, and said he would think no more harm in shooting Bampton than shooting a sparrow, for having deceived them in the passage of the Thames; and if Bampton had not been of a mind to bring up at one part of the River, he might have run his vessel aground at Sea Reach. They should not have been above ten minutes about it, and no suspicion could have fallen on Bampton whatever, for he would have been fastened down along with the officers; but what was worst of all, preparation had been made to fasten down the scuttles. However, they could manage to unload the cargo that very night, providing Bampton would shore his vessels into the roads; after having tasted a glass of liquor with them he went home. On the Wednesday morning, while loosening a barge, he learned that the hoy was robbed, and he saw her lying athwart the Dublin tier. The witness having that day to go down to the West India Docks, he gave information to Mr. Lucas, of the conversation that he had with Winter and Brown, who sent him to the Police Office.

In his cross-examination he said, that to question a man on the River with what he had been up to, was only to inquire what he had been doing: he counselled both Brown and Winter to relinquish so hazardous an undertaking. Winter complained that he had been terribly disappointed, and had spent all his money, and he knew not how to account to his master for his mis-spent time. He had never heard a syllable concerning a reward till Mr. Hutchison informed him of it.

Matthias Bride Lucas deposed, that George Seers was a lighterman in his employ, he came to London on Thursday morning, after the robbery was committed, when he was told that Seers could give information concerning it. He immediately dispatched a message to Seers, and another to Hutchison, to meet him at his counting house, and he sent Seers directly to the officer of police.

Ralph Fenwick, a ship-chandler residing at Greenwich, deposed that he knew George Brown, who proposed to him, during the month of June last, to go down the River to get some silk. He consented to make one of the party and went to Gravesend, and not succeeding, they returned. He agreed with Brown to go down again about the 29th of June, on another expedition. It was some time afterwards that he met with Ingram, in a house at Whitechapel, who consented to purchase some of the silk, but said he would talk more about it on the following day. Accordingly he met with Ingram next day, and Cooper was with him. The prisoner informed them, that a large quantity of silk was to be had, but expressing reluctance at speaking before Cooper, who was a stranger, he was desired to relate all, for none but friends were present. He then told them that a vessel was laden with silk at Stangate Creek, that a hoy was to unload her and they would get it from the hoy. Cooper said he cared not where the silk came from, he would find money for as much as might be. The witness requested them to accompany him to the Borough, to see Brown and the rest of the party. Cooper said he would rather deal with the witness because he did not like that so many should know his business. Ingram went with him to Brown, at his mother-in-law's house, in the Borough, where they went apart from the witness and conversed, and Ingram then came away with the witness. The plan settled on was, that early notice was to be given when to be at Dagnam Bridge, to receive the silk. The witness, on his way to Chadwell, found Ingram, whom he ordered to be at Dagnam Bridge on the next Thursday or Friday. About a week after that, on the 29th of June, he went, by land, to Gravesend, accompanied by Brown and William Allen. They went in Winter's barge to Greenhithe, and then returned to Gravesend for the purpose of preparing themselves. He found on board William Armstrong, Joseph Winter, and William Winter, and sailed to Sheerness, where they remained four days and a half. In the mean time Bampton came on board, with another man whom he did not know; but Joseph

Knox, the prisoner, resembled that person more than any of the other prisoners, and he believed Knox to be the person.

Bampton informed them, that the quarantine had expired, and he would begin to load at four o'clock. Brown and his companions counselled the witness to proceed to London and apprise Cooper of the delay of the goods. The witness sought Cooper, but could not find him. He sought Ingram, but he was at a Fair in Epping Forest; the witness went to the Fair, and informed him that the goods would not arrive on the Friday. Ingram said, that he and Cooper had waited all the preceding day, at Dagnam, for the silk, and he promised to be there on the Saturday. The witness immediately set off for Sheerness, where he went on board Winter's barge. Bampton's barge immediately sailed, and Winter's barge came within musket shot of her in her passage up the river. During the passage a man came on board from Bampton's barge, whom he could not swear to, but he believed to be the prisoner Knox. He heard his companions say it was a d——d bad job, but a voice said if it could be done a signal of some kind would be shown. An old fisherman was one of the officers, who knew the navigation of the River as well as any of them, and nothing could be done till they arrived in London, at the Custom-house Road. They called Bampton a deceitful kind of a man for imposing upon them so. They followed the barge to Greenwich where the witness went on shore; this was on Saturday, the 4th of July. Next day the witness arrived in London, and he happened to see Cooper and Ingram at St. George's Church, in the Borough, coming to town on a stage-coach. They got off the coach, and accosted the witness: they were much dissatisfied that the witness had not come to Dagnam, according to appointment; they had waited there all Thursday and Saturday, and asserted that they had been trifled with. Taking a walk up the Borough, they met William Allen and Joseph Winter, and they went into the back parlour of an inn, where they had some conversation. The witness here informed them, that he wholly declined having any thing more to do with the business. On the Wednesday morning after the robbery, he was going over the Custom-house quay, where he heard, from a crowd of people, that the Sisters had been robbed. He went into the Borough, and sought for Brown in vain, and he then went to Lambeth, where he found Joseph Winter, standing at his own door. He asked for Brown, and was desired to seek him at the Royal Oak, at Vauxhall, that after-

noon. To the Royal Oak he went, with Winter, and soon after William Armstrong and Benjamin Allen arrived, and Brown, in the course of the afternoon appeared. Brown and Winter went out into the passage, but they soon returned, and the witness went away with Brown to Ivey's house, No. 1, Artillery-lane, Bishopsgate-street, but did not find him at home. He and Brown went and found Ivey, at at his own house, next morning, and Ivey accompanied them to the Leaping Bar public house, in Blackfriars-road. They met two men there, one they called Caddick, and the other was the Surrey prisoner, Norman. Brown asked him to carry a sample of silk to Cooper's house, which he received either from Caddick or Norman, and he took it as he was desired. He found Mrs. Cooper, and gave the sample into her hand. She desired him to go up stairs, lest he should be seen. She put it into the loop of the window curtain of her chamber. He waited there till Cooper came home, accompanied by Ingram. They said, so soon as they heard of the robbery, they went to Dagnam Bridge, expecting the silk would go there, and, on not finding it there, they had crossed to Greenwich, and called at the witness's house. The witness informed Cooper that he had brought a sample of silk from Brown, and that Cooper was to go to the sign of the Leaping Bar, to agree with the parties for some silk. He said he would go, and asked the witness to stop and dine with him. Cooper examined the sample, and said it was very good. The witness dined, and then went on with Ingram to Blackfriars Bridge, where they were to wait till Cooper joined them. Cooper did not come, and the witness went with Ingram to the Leaping Bar, where they did not find him, and they returned, and waited at his house till he came home. When Cooper arrived, he said he had seen Brown, Caddick, and Norman at the Leaping Bar, and he had settled the business about the silk with them, and they were to meet him next morning, at a house in Golden lane, to arrange about conveying the silk away. Accordingly he met Caddick, Cooper, Ingram, and Norman, in Golden-lane, and they were proceeding to plan the removal of the silk, when young Brown, George Brown's brother, told the witness that his brother and Winter had been taken into custody: this was communicated to the witness privately, and he immediately went away. He went that afternoon to Cooper's house, where he waited till he arrived. He informed Cooper that Brown and Winter were taken into custody, and that he had

heard, that Evans, the officer, was inquiring after him (the witness.) He asked Cooper what course he ought to take, and he counselled him to go to the country with Ingram, and keep out of the way; for, if he was taken, it would make the business look black. The witness said, he would require money for that purpose, and Cooper said, he should have what he wanted. Meantime Caddick came in, and requested Cooper to give him 50*l.* Cooper gave the witness 50*l.*; but told him that he had given Brown 3*l.* and if the witness would give him 3*l.* back, that would make the whole disbursement 50*l.* Caddick declined taking any money. The witness accompanied Ingram down to Chigwell, where they remained near three weeks, in the house of one Thompson. The wife of the witness arrived at Chigwell, and remained with him for some time. He then came to London, to see Cooper, and went to a public-house that belonged to Cooper, in Piccadilly. At that house he saw Cooper, with Caddick and Norman; and a man they called *Uncle Dick*. They appeared much confused on his coming in, and Cooper and Caddick walked into the passage. Cooper and the witness soon after left the house together, and he asked Cooper how long he was to remain in the country, who said, that, in a very few days time, he might come home, when he would have the remainder part of the silk in his possession. He said he had a great deal of trouble with Caddick and Norman, who were two bad characters. (*A laugh through the Court.*) The witness returned to Chigwell, and, in a week, he arrived at his house in Greenwich; where he was soon taken into custody. He was admitted a witness by the Magistrate, and had been kept at the House of Correction ever since.

In his cross-examination he admitted, he had been five or six days in custody before he gave any information of the robbery: he was apprehended on the last day of August. He never went to any office to give information on this subject, nor would he have revealed it had he not been taken up.

Richard Brown deposed, that he was brother to George Brown, a former witness. Two or three days after he heard that the robbery was committed, he was sent to Golden-lane, where he was to inquire for a person of the name of Jackson, (Caddick.) He saw Fenwick, with several persons in his company; he inquired of him if he knew Jackson, but he did not remember what answer he received. He told Fenwick that his brother George was in custody

Rebecca Fenwick, wife of the witness Fenwick, deposed, that her husband went from home in June last, with an intention to go down the Thames. She remembered, about the time of his going, George Brown, and Cooper the prisoner, called at her house on a Sunday; Ingram was in company with them, and her husband was not at home. Ingram wrote Cooper's direction, which she afterwards gave to her husband; he said it was merely a direction for her husband to call upon him. Brown and William Allen called before on her husband on the Thursday, and he went out with them. Some time afterwards her husband went out of the way to Chigwell, in Essex. She went to him, and remained two or three days, where she saw Ingram several times.

James Jones deposed, that he was a watchman employed on premises near Baker's Dock. In July he heard of a hoy having been robbed off the Custom-house. During the morning of the robbery he saw a cart and horse at the bottom of Holland-street. He saw the cart go up Holland-street, and he went down to the shore at Baker's Dock, where he saw three or four men with a boat, out of which they took some things, and put them ashore against some pig-iron. One of the men went away, and the other three went off in the boat. He saw a barge lying off the dock with sundry others; they were all sailing barges. He saw a man very much like the prisoner Winter on board one of the barges that lay in the middle of the river. He presently saw a cart coming down the passage to the Dock, and he saw two men putting the parcels that were landed into the cart. This was all he saw then. He was examined at the Thames Police-Office, where George Brown came and sat down beside him on a chest, and put three three-shilling pieces into the hand of the witness. He met Brown and Winter at the Orange Tree public-house, after they were discharged. The house stands near Baker's Dock, and is kept by a man of the name of Cann. Next day the landlady gave him fifteen shillings which she never owed him.

Elizabeth Cann deposed, that she kept the Orange Tree public-house, near Baker's Dock. She knew the witness Jones, and gave him fifteen shillings and six-pence, which she received from the prisoner Winter. She gave the same sum to John Chandler, who was examined at the Police-Office, and fifteen shillings to Sween, another witness. This was on the Monday following the discharge of Winter.

Hercules Ball, a lighterman employed by Horne and Devey, at Bankside, deposed, that he was off Baker's Dock, beside his own wharf, in a barge, between the 7th and 8th of July. He saw a sailing barge coming up the river, which was made fast to his craft between twelve and one. The witness was desirous to alter his craft, and they were ordered to loosen their hold, else he would cast them off. They did so, and hauled into Baker's Dock; at that time it was very dark, and he could not see whose ship it was. He knew Winter for many years, and had been his fellow-servant. He also knew the barge that he sailed in, and he saw his barge, the Brothers, off that road next morning. He saw no person in the barge.

Nathaniel Young deposed, that he was employed with the last witness, on the wharf of Horne and Devey, and he confirmed the whole of his testimony.

Fanny Cissan, mother-in-law to George Brown, deposed, she remembered that her son-in-law was taken into custody in July. Armstrong, Fenwick, and Winter called at her house and inquired for Brown a week or ten days before Brown's apprehension.

Thomas Morgan, who keeps the White Horse in High-street, Borough, deposed, that he knew George Brown, and heard that he was apprehended, after he had seen in the newspapers that the hoy was robbed off the Custom-house. Brown, in company with other men, was at his house; Fenwick was one of them; and he thought he had seen Winter in their company, but was not positive.

Thomas Bailies deposed, that he kept the Royal Oak tap, at Vauxhall. On the 9th of July last, he saw a person somewhat like Fenwick in his house. Winter was also there, and three or four more.

Mary Baillie lived at the Leaping Bar tap, in Blackfriars-road. In July last she saw George Brown at her house, a man of the name of Ivey, whom she recognized to be the prisoner, and Norman, whom she also knew, was with them; there were others present, who appeared not in Court.

W. J. Bannister lived in Woolpack-yard, Gravel-lane, between Blackfriars-road and the Borough, and not a great way from Baker's Dock. On the 9th of July he saw a cart backed down the yard to a stable door, and he saw four bags put into the cart; he saw two persons besides the carman assisting at the loading, and the cart went away. On Satur-

day, the 11th of July, he saw a cart go again to the same stable; he saw four bags put full into the eart, resembling corn or potatoe sacks, which were all taken away. On the Monday the eart appeared again, and he did not see what was put into it, but he saw it driven out with full bags, standing up in the eart. On the cart he saw the name of "Spriggs, Red Lion-court, Saffron-hill." On Monday he communicated what he had observed to a friend of Mr. Hutchson, and his suspicions at the same time. He knew Norman, and, to the best of his belief, he was the man he saw assisting to put the sacks into the eart on each day. A stable stood at the bottom of the yard, that belonged to a man of the name of Whitworth; and the eart was backed, so that it could conveniently load from that stable.

Edward Townsend Whitworth, a carrier, deposed, that he had a stable in Woolpack-yard, Gravel-lane; he knew Norman the prisoner, and he let him the stable on the 4th of July: he continued to occupy the same till the officers searched it.

Thomas Friend, a constable, deposed, that he searched a stable in Woolpack-yard, Gravel-lane, where he found a trunk, a number of empty wrappers, a quantity of silk, and a large quantity of ostrich feathers in the corn-bin; he produced these goods in court: the silk weighed one hundred and twenty pounds. On the bottom of the trunk appeared the mark "S. I. No. 3." the initials of Solomon Israel, and the mark of his bill of lading. A black bag, containing ostrich feathers, was thrown to him from the hay-loft.

Miles, one of the Stangate Creek officers, belonging to the Lazaretto ship, identified the trunk to be the same he put on board Bampton's hoy.

Robert Thompson, a lighterman, was in company with Goff, the officer, two or three days after the robbery was committed. As they passed along the Borough, they fell in with Winter and George Brown, who were in company; they were apprehended by the witness and Goff.

James Budgell lives with the keeper of the New Prison, where Winter, Brown, Knox, and William Allen, were in custody, and he saw Benjamin Allen and Taylor come to visit them every other day.

Joseph Becket is employed in the House of Correction of Cold Bath-fields. He knew Winter, Brown, William Taylor, and Benjamin Allen; he saw them before they were apprehended. Some time before their second apprehension, he met Brown, Winter, and Taylor, in Moorfields, and the wit-

ness entered into conversation with them, and had some drink. Brown was apprehended a quarter of an hour afterwards.

The witness and Cook apprehended the others, Joe Winter, William Taylor, and Benjamin Allen, at Allen's house, in the front bed room, about ten o'clock.

James Spriggs, a carman, deposed, that he lived in Red Lion-court, Saffron-hill. On the 10th of July he was hired in Smithfield, and taken over Blackfriars-bridge, between eleven and twelve o'clock in the forenoon. He was hired by a stranger, and taken over the bridge about four hundred yards, towards Christ Church. His employer enquired if he had any cords; he said no, and he was ordered to buy three two-penny ones. He did so, and ere he returned he found his cart loaded with three or four sacks; there might be five, and the horses' heads were turned towards the bridge. The man said he had done without the cords, because the witness had stopped so long, and he desired him to follow that gentleman, pointing at a man who stood at some yards distance. That person he followed over the bridge, up Ludgate-hill, round St. Paul's Church-yard, and finally to a street near the Curtain-road. The man knocked at a door and went into the house, to which he backed his cart, and the man who accompanied him helped to unload, and paid him one shilling and sixpence. He was stopped more than once or twice in his way; once at the Old Bailey, and at Gutter-lane, and the man stopped for him at some distance till the obstructions were removed. Cooper, the prisoner, was most like him, both by his bulk and height; but his face he had never seen. He was putting the tail-board in his cart when the man paid him the money, and walked away very sharply. On Monday, the 13th, he was hired again, by a man six feet high, to pass over Blackfriars-bridge; and when he got over the bridge, the witness was ordered to go and get a pint of beer. He did so; and when he came back he found his cart loaded, and the horse's head turned towards the bridge. Several sacks, three or four in number, resembling cornsacks, were in the cart. He took these sacks to Fleet-street, in company of the man who hired him. When he came near Water-lane, the man who engaged him took them out of his cart, and put them into another, and paid him. He never carried any other parcels over the bridge from that place.

Alexander Gibbs, a silk manufacturer, 31, Compton-street, near the Curtain-road, Shoreditch, deposed, that he knew the prisoner, Cooper, since the middle of May. On the 9th of

July, some person called at his residence, and left a parcel of silk. Cooper called on him next day, between six and seven in the morning, and on the sample being produced, it was acknowledged that it had been left either by him, or by his order, and he asked twenty-six shillings per pound for it, saying, at the same time, that he had two hundred weight of the same as the sample. The witness said, he would let him know between that time and ten o'clock, if he would purchase the silk. He saw him again that morning, at his house in Ratcliffe-Highway, and offered him 23s. per pound for it. Cooper said the price was too little, and he would ask the opinion of a gentleman concerned with him. In two minutes Mr. Cooper returned with another gentleman, and they consented to take the price the witness had offered. He was to have the silk the same day. The witness went away, and the silk arrived at his house between one and two o'clock, in one large and three small bags, contained in a small uncovered cart. He had seen that cart since at Hatton-garden Police-office. Spriggs was the person who came with the cart, and it was turned towards the warehouse of the witness when he entered the end of the street. At that time, Spriggs jumped up on the fore part of the cart and drove off: when he arrived at his own door he found Cooper in the act of coming out of his warehouse, who said, "it is all right," and returned with the witness into his house. He saw the bags he had described lying in his house, in the parlour, and Cooper said, the bags, instead of two hundred weight, contained three hundred weight. Cooper wanted prompt payment, but the witness said, he could not pay him till the evening, and Cooper went away. He paid him 150l. that evening in his house at Ratcliffe. On Monday, he paid him the remainder, 195l. He saw Cooper two days after, who told him he had as much more, if the witness wished to take it at the same price; he agreed to the proposal, and the second parcel arrived next day, to the weight of 320 lbs. Cooper had called to tell him the silk was coming. The silk was brought in bags by a woman porter, and he paid 365l. for the same at Cooper's house, into the hands of Mrs. Cooper, on the 16th of July. The first parcel he weighed contained 303 lbs. and the second weighed 323 lbs. On examining the silk, he found sundry of the hanks cut, and he intended to have claimed a deduction, had Cooper been at home. He saw Cooper, on the latter end of August, at his warehouse, who informed him that he had as much more to dispose of, and he brought a sample of

silk to examine, but he declined taking it. Cooper on that inquired, if he knew any person likely to buy it, and he answered no. The witness sold the whole of the silk he had from Cooper to Green, of Worship-square, for 26s. 6d. per pound. Cooper spoke to him about sarsnets and crapes, but he did not offer to purchase them.

In his cross-examination he said, it was the business of silk manufacturers to know the price of silk in the market, but he was not acquainted with the real value of the silk that he had purchased from Cooper. He never bought any thing of that sort before in all his life, and in reference to what had happened he had made a bad bargain. After he purchased the silk he took pains to know the value of it. He inquired the price of no person save Mr. Green, to whom he sold it in the afternoon of the same day he purchased it. Cooper informed the witness, that sea captains frequented his house, from whom he received various goods, and amongst the rest silks. He considered the present as a fair transaction; he communicated the bargain he had made to his partner Stevens.

Thomas Green, a ribbon manufacturer in Worship-square, near the house of the last witness, deposed, that on the 10th of July, Gibbs showed him a sample of silk, which he agreed to purchase, on the 11th, at 26s. 6d. per pound. He received the silk on that day to the amount of 306 pounds. He afterwards purchased another parcel of 326 pounds at the same price. This he considered to be Italian, not Spanish silk. These parcels he sent to Mr. Perceval, at Bruton, in Somersetshire, who was to throw the silk for him.

One of the hanks found in Norman's stable was here produced, and the witness said, that the silk which he purchased from Gibbs was put up in the same way, and resembled it externally.

In his cross-examination, he said, that so many kinds of silk were in the market, that he could not distinguish the difference.

Richard Brissot Bousfield, a silk-broker, said, that Green showed him, on the 10th of July, a skain of Valencia raw silk, of the same fabric and description as that found in Norman's stable.

In his cross-examination, he said, that it was impossible to swear to raw silk, out of its packages. The Italian and Spanish silk hanks were composed in a dissimilar manner. Green inquired the value of the silk on the 10th of July,

and he said, that, contemplating the arrival of many bales from the Indies, in a few weeks, and several thousands more in November, he ought not to pay more than 28s. 6d. per pound for it, with the usual credit of ten months. He had known immense quantities of silks coming to England in an irregular manner, in butter tubs, &c.

Theophilus Perceval, proprietor of silk mills, at Bruton, in Somersetshire, deposed, that, in July last, he received a letter, accompanied by a hank of raw Valencia silk, from Mr. T. Green, and on the 23d, he received 60lb. weight of it by the coach, and on the 27th, he received 246lbs. by the waggon; on the 31st he received 326lbs. more, making, in all, 632lbs. from Green. On the 13th of August he sent 33lbs. of the thrown silk to Green, and the rest was on the mill at work, in its raw state. They found several skains cut, as with a razor, which could not happen in the carriage. He had an order from the Thames Police Office to return all the silk he had got from Green, and he sent it up in six packages. On these he placed his seal.

In his cross-examination, he said that the silk came to him packed in the usual way, with coarse linen cloth.

In his re-examination, he compared one of the hanks found in Norman's stable, and one of the hanks that he sealed up, together; and, from the length of the reel, they were as like as like could be. He had been seventeen years in business.

John Goff, surveyor of Thames Police, deposed, that he had produced, in the Court, the silk sent from Bruton. He apprehended Cooper at the White Swan, in Ratcliffe-high-way, where he lived, on the 20th of August, and Ivey on the day following. Cooper was confined in Cold Bath-fields, and one day when he was at the Thames Police-office, he directed the witness to go to Horndon-on-the-Hill, in Essex, for a quantity of silk. He was accompanied by Mrs. Cooper, and received 500lb. of raw silk. The place was pointed out by Mrs. Cooper. One hank of this silk he produced in the Court from the bag which contained it.

Mr. Perceval examined this hank, and, to the best of his knowledge, said it was Valencia silk; it corresponded with the silk he had from the witness Green.

Baron THOMPSON, at the conclusion of Mr. Perceval's examination, leaned over the Bench, and inquired of Mr. Gurney if he was near the conclusion of the evidence on the part of the prosecution.

Mr. GURNEY answered—"The examination of Mr. Perceval, my Lord, closes, except one, the whole of my heavy evidences. That one it will be necessary to examine somewhat amply, because by his evidence we intend to fix the guiltiness of George Harris. But I am sorry to say, my Lord, that fourteen witnesses are remaining unexamined, yet I hope if the cross-examinations do not retard us, that we may conclude the case on the part of the prosecution in three hours."

Baron THOMPSON conceived it utterly impossible from the advanced period of the night, to finish the whole case now.

One of the officers of the Court informed his Lordship, that William Taylor, one of the prisoners, was so alarmingly ill that he could no longer remain at the Bar.

"Since that is the case, Gentlemen, said Baron THOMPSON to the Jury, who were expressing much uneasiness at the prospect of being confined all the Sabbath-day, we must give up the examination, for we may not proceed while a prisoner is so unwell that he cannot understand what the witnesses swear against him. I am very sorry justice requires that the Jury are to be kept together till Monday."

One of the Jurymen maintained, that confinement on the Sabbath was a circumstance of immeasurable hardship, because some of them were in a condition so infirm, that unless they breathed freely of the fresh air, their health might be endangered. He hoped his Lordship would consent to allow them to visit their families accompanied by an officer.

Baron THOMPSON informed them, that it was the letter of the law that confined them, not his commands, and he dared not to give them any such unwonted indulgence. He was happy, however, to inform them, that the Chief Magistrate would afford them every possible accommodation and indulgence.

The LORD MAYOR endeavoured to comfort them by assurances, that they should have for their accommodation the largest room in the house; and he would cause the windows to be opened, so that a profusion of fresh air might circulate freely among them.

The Court adjourned at ten o'clock at night.

Taylor the prisoner was so very ill, that his comrades had to carry him down the stairs in their arms.

THE Court met at the usual hour, and proceeded on the trial of Winter, Allen, Taylor, Ivey, Knox, Cooper, and G. Harris, which had been adjourned on Saturday night.

Louisa Uhr, a feather-maker in Cannon-street, St. George's in the East, knows the prisoner Cooper, who lives near her. She went to Cooper three months ago, in consequence of a message, and saw him. He shewed her some white ostrich feathers; he offered about 3lb. at 40s. per lb. and said, that if she liked them, perhaps there might be some more. She requested him to wait half an hour, and returned with her partner, Miss Bloomfield, and in a back room looked over the feathers, and afterwards offered him 4l. for them: Cooper refused to take it, saying, that the feathers were not his, but that he would accept 5l.

Friend, the officer, produced some feathers found in the stable hired by Norman. Mrs. Uhr swore, that the feathers offered to her were like those now produced, in an unmanufactured state.—*Cross-examined by Mr. KNAPP.*—She added, that Cooper throughout declared that he was not selling them on his own account.

James George, in the employ of Mr. Gibbs, silk-manufacturer, was sent in July with silk to Mr. Green, in the same trade, and delivered it just as he had received it. Being cross-examined, he said, that he had gone five or six times for the silk.

Mr. Gibbs deposed, that he did send the silk by the last witness, and that it was the same silk he had bought of Cooper.

Mr. R. Grant, partner in the house of Read, Bell, and Co. on inspecting the bill of lading, deposed, that the consignment was made to their firm.

Mr. R. Arnett, of their house, paid the duty at the Custom-house.

E. W. Simmons, clerk to the Magistrates of the Thames Police-office, deposed, that the examination of Cooper did not appear on his note-book: was not himself present on the 20th of August.

Mr. Grant then stated, that he was present at the Thames Police-office: Mr. Gibbs was there: before Cooper was put to the bar, he declared, in Gibbs's presence, that he never sold

silk to Gibbs : had often seen Valencia silk ; it was worth (in July last) 34s. per lb.—Cross-examined by Mr. Andrews : did not know that such silk had been smuggled lately : saw the silk for the first time at the Thames Police-office.—Re-examined : said that there was no Valencia silk in the market at the time of the robbery.

Thomas Arnett, a clerk in the house of Read, Bell, and Co. was sent to pay the duties on the silk, which amounted, in part, to 450l. paid them.

Thomas Farrow, a silk-broker in Cornhill, shewed a sample of silk to Mr. Prater : it was Valencia raw silk ; it had been left at his counting-house in his absence. George Harris, the prisoner, called upon him on the 10th of July ; but the sample was left before that time. Harris said he had left a sample of silk some days before. He first told the witness that he had 1 cwt. and afterwards that he had 2 cwt. ; he asked 26s. per lb. ready money, saying he had refused 25s. for it ; recollected the day, from the circumstance of having, when Harris called on him, written a cheque on his banker in payment of two lots of silk at the India-house : shewed the sample on the 14th to Mr. Prater, of Noble-street ; told Mr. Prater Harris's price, and referred him to George Harris as the owner of the silk : had himself known George Harris about eighteen months, from his brother Samuel having worked a commission in which the witness was creditor : knew George Harris as clerk to his brother ; the first interview he had with Harris, after the conversation about the silk, was on the 15th, at his brother's office, in the presence of the brother. Witness told George Harris, that Mr. Prater would take it for 26 shillings : George Harris agreed to the bargain, but said the silk could not be delivered for two days. The witness, on the 17th, attended the delivery (in the presence of George Harris) to Mr. Prater. It was brought by a woman, in corn sacks, by two conveyances : the silk was weighed while Harris was there : it weighed about 190lb. Mr. Prater was not at home ; his clerk, Mr. Cotty, received it for him. The sacks were produced ; and witness testified that they were similar to those in which the silk was brought, on which was the name of J. and J. Gaunt : this name was on the sacks. Next morning the witness saw Mr. Prater, who desired him to tell Harris to fetch back the silk, as he would have nothing to do with it.

The witness, in consequence, went to George Harris, whom he found at his brother's office, and told him Prater's

message; at the same time informing him, that the silk too much resembled the silk then lying at Union-hall, and that he would not be broker to the transaction. The robbery excited considerable sensation in the silk trade: was applied to after this by Mr. Grant, to know who was his principal in this business, and went to George Harris to ask his permission to give up the name: George Harris said he hoped there would be no necessity for this, as the silk belonged to very honourable people. Mr. Grant applied again for the name, and the witness went again three times to Harris, to beg his permission to disclose the name; only saw Samuel Harris once with his brother: George Harris the third time consented to give up the name. Witness did not give up the name of Harris till examined upon oath at the Police-office, where the two Harris's were in attendance professionally on this business: does not know whether they remained after the name was given up: at this time the examination of some of the prisoners was in process: does not remember going to Mr. Prater from Harris: he saw Valencia silk had been in the market for some months, (the silk was produced) which witness said was similar to that at Union-hall, and at Mr. Prater's.—Cross-examined by Mr. KNAPP.—Said he had been 30 years in the trade: had seen a great quantity of Valentia silk: silk was sometimes smuggled: inferred from Harris's conversation that the silk belonged to other people: could not positively swear to the identity of the silk, only to its resemblance.—Re-examined,—said, that the silk bore a perfect correspondence to the silk he had before seen.

One of the Jury asked why he had not given the name to Mr. Prater: he answered, that Prater did not enquire: asked leave of George Harris, because Harris had said, he should be sorry to expose the names of some respectable silk houses. The manner in which the silk was carried to Prater's, altered the witness's opinion as to the character of the ownership.

William Codd, clerk to Mr. Prater, deposed, that Mr. Farrow called on the day mentioned by him, and confirmed the testimony of the last witness. He stated farther, that Mr. Prater, on his return home, sent the witness to Mr. Farrow to apprise him that he would not have the silk. Harris afterwards called and said the silk must go back, and that it would be requisite to leave his signature, so that if a person brought a note corresponding to it, the witness was to deliver the silk; thereupon Harris wrote his name (which signature the witness produced), and went away: he did not assign any

reason for taking the silk back. Shortly after, the woman, who had the day before delivered the silk, came and brought an order for the delivery, signed by George Harris, (which was produced in Court); the silk was delivered to the woman, though not in sacks: the woman returned, requested that the silk might be put in sacks: she then took away the silk and the sacks.

Cross-examined by Mr. ADOLPHUS.—Had known Harris for three years, and never knew him in any other capacity than that of an attorney's clerk: had no personal knowledge that silk was smuggled, but believed it. In the silk trade, there is always given up the name of the broker and principal.

William Prater deposed, that he expected to have seen the bulk at the seller's warehouse: on learning from his clerk, how and by whom it had been delivered, he desired his clerk to direct Mr. Farrow to fetch it back, on account of the suspicious appearance of the bulk and packages, and from the mode of delivery, and because the silk being Valentia raw silk, appeared to him to be part of the stolen silk, as no such silk had been in the market for a long time. In consequence of his direction the silk was fetched away.

William Ballard knew the prisoner George Harris, who had not offered to him any sample of silk in July last, nor at any time.

Cross-examined by Mr. KNAPP.—Said he had a transaction (he believes with the prisoner Harris), about silk, in December, 1810, and bought, for another, silk to the amount of 500l.

W. E. Simmons said, that on the 9th of July, Bampton and Knox were apprehended with William Allen; on the 10th, Winter (the prisoner) and Brown, were apprehended; and on the 11th, William Henry Winter. The second examination was on the 17th of July, when Mr. Samuel Harris attended professionally for the prisoners; but he does not recollect whether George Harris attended. George Harris did attend several examinations. Harris was told, that he was awkwardly situated; but had, if he pleased, an opportunity of clearing his character.

Mr. HARMER (the Solicitor for the prosecution) said he was present at the examination. The Magistrate informed Harris, that as a quantity of silk appeared to be brought to his possession, that he had now the choice to offer any explanation: George Harris gave no answer till he had consulted with his brother, and Mr. Bellis, the attorney for the other

prisoners ; and after some time (five or ten minutes,) said he had made up his mind to inform the Magistrate : Mr. Bellis said that the only hesitation which Mr. George Harris had, was professional etiquette. No promise or threat was used. George Harris then began his narrative, standing by Simmons, who took down what he said, and asked him repeatedly whether it was correct.¹

W. E. Simmons then read the declaration of Harris, which purported, that at the end of June he had received silk from Cooper to be sold at two and a-half per cent, commission : a sample of which he left at Farrow's, whom he saw some days afterwards, and asked if he had a customer for it. He asked him (Harris) the price, which was 26s. : that he saw him again a few days after, when he gave the deponent the direction of Mr. Prater, and said that Mr. Prater would purchase the silk, and that it should be delivered the next day. The deponent then saw Mr. Cooper and gave him Mr. Prater's direction : he understood it was not delivered the next day, and called on Cooper again. Cooper then said it was some few miles in the country ; that it was smuggled silk, and he was obliged to bring it as privately as he could, lest it should be seized : that he was certain that he intimated to Mr. Farrow that the silk being a few miles up the country, and being smuggled, was the cause of its not being sent in : that a few mornings afterwards the prisoner, Cooper, called at his brother's office, and told him the silk had been sent in : he then went to Mr. Farrow, and told him the person had sent the silk : that Farrow told him to go to Prater's, and that he would follow : he went, and found that some of the silk had been delivered ; and, whilst he was there, an Irish woman came in with a bag of silk ; Mr. Farrow called on deponent the same afternoon, and told him that Mr. Prater did not approve of the silk, and wished it to be taken away ; that he immediately went to Mr. Prater's, saw Mr. Codd, and wrote his name, saying, that it was proper to sign his name on paper ; that, if any person came with a note from him, with his name appearing like that, the silk might be re-delivered ; which note deponent acknowledged : that he did not see any of the silk, except the sample, before or after he saw the bags at Mr. Prater's.

Wm. Frend, the constable, deposed, that the silk which Farrow saw at Union-hall was that now produced in Court.

William Saunders proved, that the sand called Lassell, in the Medway, was in Kent.

Richard de Beaufre, a silk-broker, proved, that the importation of Valencia silk was small ; and that in July last, there was no such silk in the market, except the present (the silk was produced, which the witness stated to be raw Valencia silk, and that the different parcels were all alike) ; the silk was worth about 33s. per lb.—Cross examined by Mr. ANDREWS—Said that he knew such silk had lately been brought surreptitiously into the country.

George Gouger, silkman, in Ironmonger-lane, said, his business was to purchase raw silk : had been acquainted with that article ten years ; that there was no raw Valencia silk in the market in July, and only four ballots in the year : looked at the silk, and said that it was raw Valencia silk, and that the parcels were alike, there being very little difference in their quality, but less than often appeared in the same package. Its value, in July, was 34s. per lb.

The evidence for the prosecution closed.

Winter was asked what defence he had ; and gave in a paper, which he desired to be read.

Mr. ALLEY submitted to the Judge, that Knox's offence, if any, was not committed in the place alledged in the indictment.

Mr. POOLEY submitted the same for Ivey.

Mr. GURNEY argued *à contra*.

The Judge (Baron THOMPSON) over-ruled the objections, and said the matter was for the consideration of the Jury.

Mr. Baron CHAMBRE said the same.

Winter's defence was read, which submitted that the witnesses deserved no credit ; that he was innocent, and begged for mercy.

Allen's defence was to the same effect.

Taylor's defence was similar, (both insisting on the infamy of Brown's character.)

Ivey's defence contained the same matter.

Knox said the same.

Cooper said he bought 10 cwt. of silk, and bought it as smuggled ; sold 6 cwt. to Gibbs, and sold it to him as smuggled : when he was taken into custody he refused to give up the parties from whom he bought, lest they should be exchequered. He was taken to Coldbath Fields, where Mr. Grant went to him, and asked him if he had any more such silks ? he told him that he had, and was then asked if he was willing to resign it ? The prisoner told him that he would

inform him as soon as he went down to the Office; and sooner than have his name implicated in a felonious transaction, he gave information of the silk; and his wife, by his orders, brought the silk to the Thames Police: said that he had two houses in Ratcliffe Highway, in which he was turning 10,000l. a-year; another in Piccadilly, in which he was turning 7,000l. and, could it be believed that, so situated, he would be concerned in a felonious transaction? he has a wife, and 5 children, under 7 years of age: he had another family to support, which is destitute, and consisting of 17 children.

George Harris called the attention of the jury to the probability of his knowing it to be stolen, or only smuggled.

Winter's witnesses were then called:—

George Wilson stated, that he lived at Vauxhall: had known the prisoner 20 years, and had always heard him spoken of respectably.

Thomas Ingleton had known Winter 14 years: his character was always very respectable.

George Barker had known the prisoner 17 years; the prisoner's character was very good.

Joseph Barber had known him, as he worked for him, and gave him a good character.

— Barber, jun. gave him a good character.

Thomas Latham had known him 17 years, and gave him a character as very trust-worthy.

Taylor's witnesses were then called:—

Joseph Forrester, wine-merchant, Savage-gardens, had known Taylor ten years, and said he was a very honest man.

Thomas Rogers had known him eight years, and said he was a steady industrious character.

William Wood, and James Way, deposed to the same effect.

William Robinson, and John Mason, gave him a very excellent character; as also William Hampton.

Allen's witnesses came next.—Wm. Hamilton, Wm. Wilson, James Brown, Wm. Matway, and Andrew Anderson, gave him a high character for honesty and industry.

Knox's witnesses followed.—Thomas Rounce, John Sedger, John Thout, Henry Sampson, Wm. Noddy, Thos. Ingleton, Robt. Somers, and Henry Waistcoat, gave Knox a very high character for honesty and sobriety.

John Linford had known Winter twenty years, and gave him a good character.

Cooper's witnesses were then called.—Mr. Jas. Tatlock had been 30 or 40 years in the silk line ; knows raw Valenoia silk ; said it was impossible to distinguish between different parcels of such silk ; a great quantity of such silk had been smuggled lately.—*Cross examined* by Mr. GURNEY,—said that he was Farrow's uncle.

Mr. Jones of Aldgate, said, that he had known Cooper for some time, and had been employed by him in his business in the linen trade. He knew him to have been a dealer in silk, as he had shewn him samples in the month of May last, of raw silk, which he wished him to dispose of. He was a good customer to him ; but he was not able to give any decided opinion respecting his character. This witness, on his cross-examination said, that this silk was offered to him for sale by Cooper, but that on account of the hand-bills that mentioned a quantity of silk having been stolen, he refused to purchase any of it, although he had no reason to doubt but that Mr. Cooper was a respectable man.

The next witnesses who were produced for Cooper, were a person from the Custom-house, and the Solicitor of the Exeise, who proved that Cooper had often been prosecuted for violating the laws relative to the Customs and Excise. (The object of this evidence appeared to be, by proving that he was connected in smuggling transactions, to raise an inference, that he did not know this property to have been stolen.)

Mr. ADOLPHUS then, on the part of Harris, brought forward several witnesses to character.

A person of the name of Fridelburgh, who described himself as an occasional agent and accountant, knew Mr. Harris to have been for a long time engaged in the sale of silk. He had been engaged in transactions of that sort with a person whose accounts he had been employed to settle, and for whom he had often translated, Mr. Sampson Pivana, of Arundel street, in the Strand. Mr. Harris had a house in White Lion-street, where he transacted mereantile business, before he became clerk to his brother, the attorney. On his cross-examination, he allowed that those transactions were about the time when Mr. Pivana was advertised as absconding from his creditors.

Mr. Dulakey, a surgeon and dentist ; Mr. Jowell, a factor ; and several other persons, gave him a good character generally.

The defence was here closed.

The Jury having applied for permission to withdraw, to take some refreshment, it was allowed them; but the Judge intimated his wish that they should retire but for a very short time.

CHARGE.

The Learned Judge then, in a charge which occupied more than four hours in the delivery, recapitulated the whole of the evidence. He began by observing, that this indictment had occupied their attention for an unusual length of time, but for no longer time than justice absolutely required. He was happy to see that in the consciousness that they were discharging an important duty to their country, they had cheerfully submitted to great privations. The case now came before them for their determination. The indictment charged three of the prisoners, Winter, Allen, and Taylor, with the capital felony of stealing those goods upon a navigable river, the Thames. It charged two more of the prisoners, Ivy and Knox, as accessaries before the fact; that is, of feloniously contriving and procuring the perpetration of the act to which they were thus aiding and abetting. It charged the other two prisoners, Cooper and Harris, as accessaries after the fact. They would observe, that the charge against those accessaries, whether before or after the fact, was not of that capital nature as the charge against the other three for stealing the goods. This case had disclosed as great a scene of iniquity as ever had presented itself to a Court of Justice. The story told by the accomplices was a dismal tale of pre-determined guilt, of great contrivance in the execution of it, and of the most obstinate perseverance in the guilty purpose, until its full accomplishment, in spite of all dangers and difficulties that lay in the way. The charge against the prisoners must rest principally upon the credit paid to the story of accomplices, of which, indeed, there appeared, in the present case, to be a great number. The story told by accomplices always required confirmation. It was not necessary, however, that there should be circumstances confirming every single fact related by them; it was sufficient that important parts of their story should be corroborated so far by circumstances, as to make the Jury credit their story. Neither was it necessary that circumstances should be found to corroborate what they stated with respect to every individual party. Their story must be generally confirmed by circumstances in order to give it sufficient weight with the Jury.

It was absolutely necessary to admit the testimony of accomplices to prevent the total failure of justice. Crimes of this nature were only contrived and perpetrated by bad men, and it was therefore from them that the greatest light was to be obtained upon those transactions. They were not, however, to be believed, unless their testimony was so far to be confirmed by circumstances as to make their story believed. The Learned Judge then recapitulated, with great distinctness, the whole of the evidence on the part of the prosecution, and particularly dwelt, in corroboration of the testimony of the accomplices, on the evidence of Sayers, who was no accomplice, but who had been spoken to on the business before it was done, and who, from that conversation, was able to say on the day that he heard such a robbery was committed, that he was sure he knew the persons who had done it. This Sayers, who was no accomplice, most materially confirmed the story which the accomplices had told. He *must* also direct their attention to the circumstance of a trunk being found with the same marks which were described in the invoice of the goods shipped from Gibraltar, in the Velocity. After dwelling for a considerable time on the evidence in support of the prosecution, he then came to the defence. All the defendants, except Cooper and Harris, had contented themselves with speaking generally of the extreme badness of the characters of the witnesses against them, who were accomplices. Cooper, however, wished the jury to believe that he bought those goods, conceiving them to be smuggled; and represented, that from the situation in life he described himself to hold, (turning in his three shops 17,000l. per. ann.) it could not be supposed that he would be guilty of the action imputed to him. Harris also stated himself as entirely innocent with respect to this transaction, and to conceiving those to have been, smuggled goods. He had, as almost all of them had, many witnesses to his character. Cooper's witnesses were of rather an extraordinary description. Tatlock, indeed, spoke to the impossibility of swearing particularly to the silk which had been found. Other men, however, equally conversant with him in the silk trade, had thought otherwise. The extraordinary part of his defence, however, was, that he appeared to think, that if he proved that he had been in the habit of smuggling, or violating the laws in other respects, an inference should be

formed in his favour that he did not buy those goods knowing them to be stolen. It was an extraordinary principle, indeed, to expect that a Jury would infer that a man was incapable of committing a particular crime, by his bringing proof that he had committed others. It had been proved, that he had been prosecuted for obstructing Revenue Officers in the discharge of their duty, and for defrauding the revenue in the duties on spirits; and upon this proof he relied, that the Jury would infer that he did not know those goods to be stolen. It, however, by no means followed, that because a man was a smuggler, he was not also a receiver of stolen goods. The Jury would weigh all the circumstances which had come out in the evidence, and consider whether they did not sufficiently confirm the testimony of the accomplices, in the charge as it applied to him. The same observations would apply to the defence set up by Harris. If it were true, that he had been often an agent in selling smuggled silk, did it follow from that, that he might not also have been employed in the sale of silk which he knew to be stolen? It was for the Jury to say, upon all the evidence which had been produced, whether they believed Cooper and Harris to have known that the silk was stolen or not. After many more observations, and pointing out the bearings of the evidence as affecting the case of each of the prisoners separately, he left the case to the determination of the Jury.

One of the Jurymen then rose, and after expressing the gratitude of himself and his brother jurors for the kind manner in which they had been treated, said, that as in this important cause they felt they were under the eye of the public, they wished to know whether they might not have a copy or abstract of the indictment.

This was accordingly granted without any objection, and the Jury then withdrew.

The Jury remained several hours out of Court, and on their return, which took place exactly at twelve o'clock at night, they delivered the following verdict:—Winter, Allen, and Taylor, *GUILTY—Death.*—Ivey and Cooper *GUILTY—Transportation.*—Knox and Harris *NOT GUILTY.*

Judge THOMPSON then observed, that the Public were much indebted to the Prosecutors for their exertions in this business; and that their expences should be allowed them.

The Foreman of the Jury requested the Court, that in consideration of the fatigue which they had undergone, their farther attendance might be dispensed with during the rest of the Session. With this request the Court immediately complied.

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